FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The Government are initiating steps to make available good quality medicinal plants, setting up a Medicinal Plants Board, Preparing Schemes to assist upgradation of State Pharmacies and Laboratories, introducing good manufacturing practices to be followed by manu-facturers and prescribing for some basic tests on drugs to ensure their safety and public acceptability. In addition, preparation of formulary and Pharmacopoeial standards are also undertaken and good progress has been made.

Demand for accupuncture system of treatment

3699. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing demand from the public in favour of adopting the accupuncture system of treatment in public hospitals; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to concede the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRUI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Accupuncture is not recognised by the Government as an Alternative system of Medicine. However, accupuncture therapy is being as one of the treatment modalities for relief of pain, in some Central Government Hospitals like Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals at Delhi.

Eighth India Population Project

3700. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the expansion of there non- going World Bank assisted Eight-India Population Project;

(b) if so, the details of the projects in Bihar and West Bengal;

(c) whether Government propose to start any special development projects for tribals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.